

REMARKS

We trust the Examiner will now find the application to be in condition for allowance and reconsideration is respectfully requested. Applicant first acknowledges with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter (subject to overcoming the rejection under 35 USC §112) in claims 8-11, 14, 21, 23, 25 and 26. In this regard, the Examiner will note that the method claims have been amended to positively set forth method steps as suggested.


The present invention relates to a method for joining batches of fibres for forming a fibre mat for use in the manufacture of a fibre reinforced device (such as a windmill blade, boat hull, etc.). As noted in the specification, when a zig-zag type of stitching is used to join the batches strains are imparted which result in undulations that cause reduced strength in the final product, particularly in compression. The present invention seeks to overcome this shortcoming by joining the batches of fibres of the fibre mat in a manner by which the batches do not undulate. To this end, the batches of fibres are joined by holder means that span each batch at an angle so that the influence on the batches is essentially symmetrical about a longitudinally extending axis between the batches. Further, as may be seen from each of Figs. 4-12, the holder means are such that the influence on the batches is essentially symmetrical about an axis spanning the batches at an angle perpendicular to the longitudinally extending axis between the batches. As a result, undulation is prevented. (See also page 10, lines 20-22; page 11, lines 14-16 and page 11, lines 18-20).

The claims (other than those indicated be allowable) were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) over Jones et al. Jones is not concerned with the problem of joined batches

undulating as a result of the holding means but rather seeks to prevent any run caused by a broken thread from extending along the thread. Accordingly, Jones neither teaches nor suggests that the hold means joining the batches influence the batches in a manner that is essentially symmetrical about an axis extending longitudinally between the batches as well as an axis perpendicular thereto. The Examiner will note that the claims have been amended to set forth this distinction.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the application as amended herein is now in condition for allowance. A relatively early notification is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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